

Saints fan a popular choice for chief County Court judge

He's a St Kilda supporter who swirms like a fish and a "black letter" lawyer who just gets on with the job. Those credentials for Peter Barrington Kidd (pictured), Victoria's new chief judge of the County Court, may alone sound impressive enough, but there's more to this law man than a footy allegiance, churning laps and being a good mouthpiece. His appoint-

ment on Tuesday, announced by attorney-general Martin Pakula, apparently from a field of about 10 after several months of assessment, has been widely and warmly greeted, including by his future court colleagues. They get a fine lawyer, and not just a bureaucrat or administrator, whose appointment from "outside" the court alleviates any recourse to dis-

appointed grumbling or disappointed noses. The only unfortunate issue with Kidd's popular addition to the role - the fourth chief judge in the court's 58-year history - is the reminder of its necessity. His predecessor, Michael Rozenes, resigned after falling ill last April, and Kidd, 49, will know what a hard act he follows in the much-loved Rozenes.

Steve Butcher

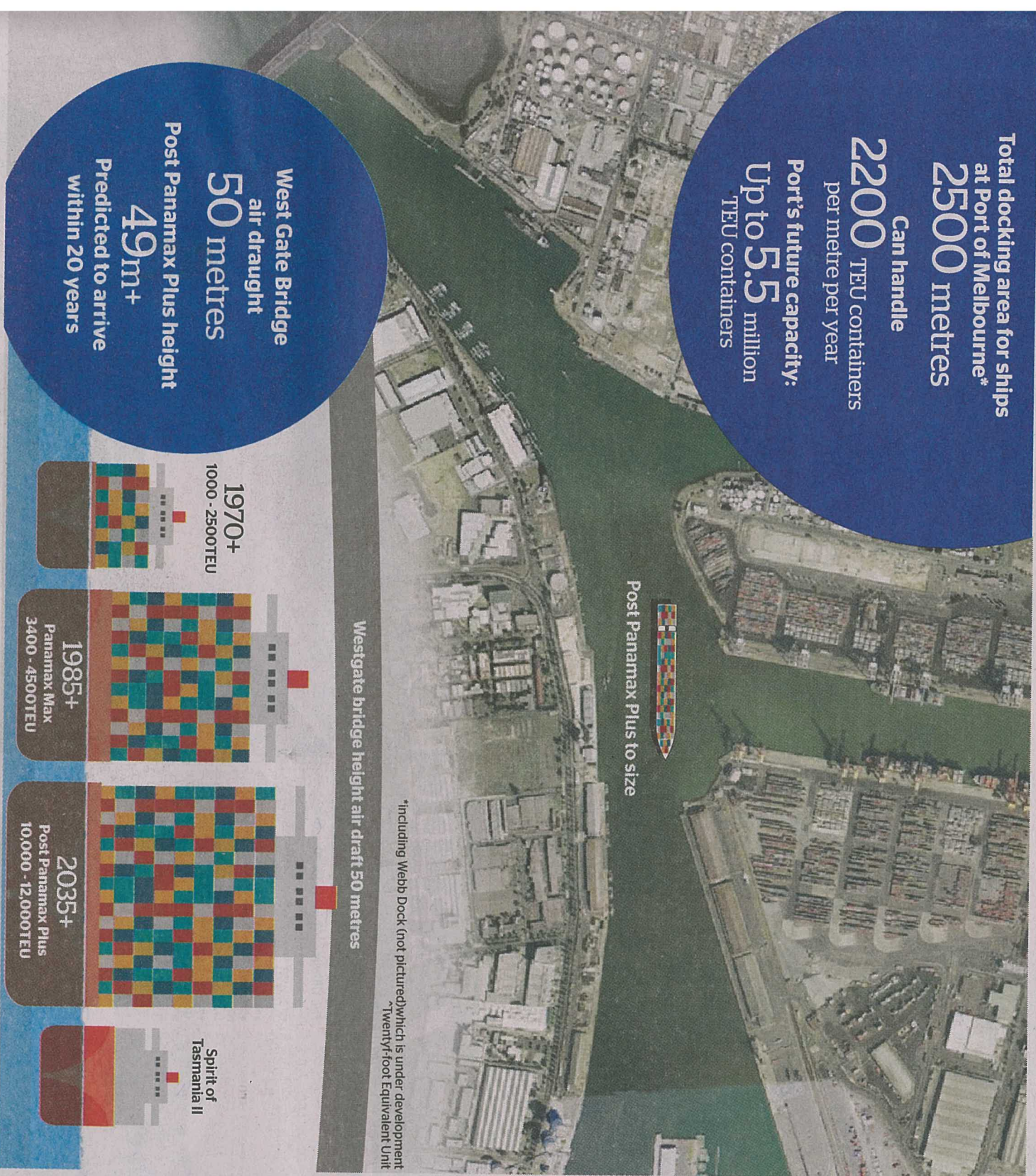


the West Gate Bridge

Total docking area for ships at Port of Melbourne*
2500 metres

Can handle **2200** TEU containers per metre per year

Port's future capacity: Up to **5.5 million** TEU containers

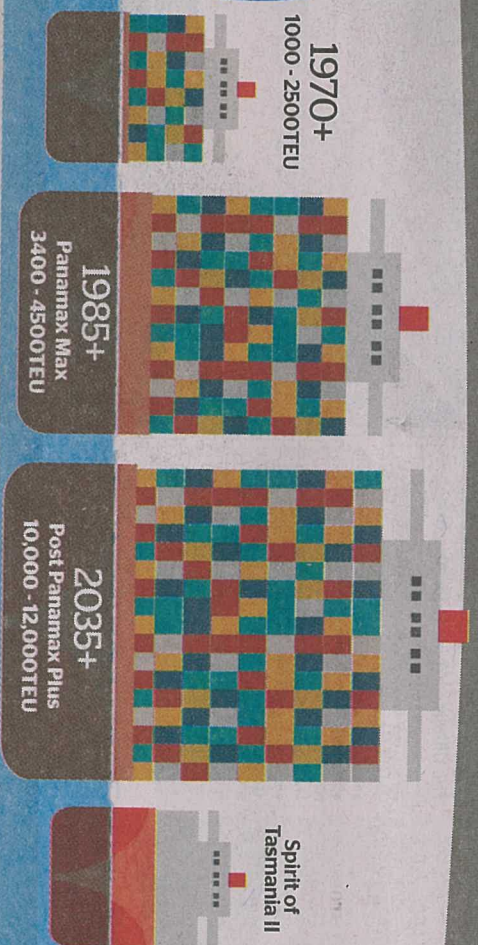


Post Panamax Plus to size

Westgate bridge height air draft 50 metres

*Including Webb Dock (not pictured) which is under development
*Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit

West Gate Bridge air draught **50 metres**
Post Panamax Plus height **49m+**
Predicted to arrive within 20 years



New tram strike on the cards

■ Tom Cowie

Melbourne commuters face the third week in a row of public transport disruption, as tram drivers are set to strike again in an ongoing pay battle between the Rail, Tram and Bus Union and Yarra Trams.

Public Transport Victoria is warning commuters to prepare alternative means of travel between 10am and 2pm on Thursday as tram drivers threaten to walk out. RTBU train and bus divisional secretary Phil Alieri said talks had broken down on Tuesday after Yarra Trams failed to present a new pay offer to workers.

"Yet again they've given us a slap in the face, it's very disappointing," he said.

If the industrial action goes ahead it will be the third public transport strike to hit Victorian commuters in as many weeks.

Melbourne's train system ground to a halt on Friday, leading many commuters to take the day off work amid warnings of transport chaos, and trams disappeared from the streets a fortnight ago.

As with the last tram strike, it is expected there will be significant disruption to services well before 10am as trams are gradually withdrawn from service.

There will also be some delays after the strike finishes, while trams return to service after 2pm.

Premier Daniel Andrews called on the two parties to come to an agreement and avoid another strike.

"There's no need for anyone to be taking industrial action and there's no need for us to be disrupting the city," he said.

"I would hope that everyone's focused on sitting down and talking and working on these issues."

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Closing Tuesday 15 September at 5pm

VIEWING Wednesday 2.30 - 3pm Saturday 1.30 - 2pm

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AUCTION Saturday 26 September at 2pm

VIEWING Wednesday 11 - 11.30am Thursday 1 - 1.30pm Saturday 12 - 12.30pm

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